

MSU COVID-19 Case Procedures:

Students & Employees

Updated 1/10/2022

Overview

Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, MSU continues to adapt and shift to minimize the exposure and spread of the virus. MSU will continue to support a positive living/learning environment throughout the COVID-19 situation. It is recognized that the MSU community **will not be immune** from having COVID-19 cases – this procedure provides guidelines and steps to follow when MSU has a suspected COVID-19 case and/or a confirmed positive COVID-19 case.

If an individual has been notified they are a close contact of a positive individual and meet any of these criteria and are asymptomatic, they are exempt from quarantine:

- have received their booster shot
- have had a prior infection in the last 90 days
- are within 6 months of their primary mRNA series or are between 2 weeks and two months of J & J dose.

Guidance and Considerations

MSU has considered various factors when implementing campus-wide guidance and requirements. Some of the factors include:

- [level of community transmission of COVID-19](#);
- [COVID-19 vaccination coverage](#);
- participation in COVID-19 screening/testing events;
- any local COVID-19 outbreaks or increasing trends; and
- direction or guidance provided by the local public health unit and the [North Dakota Department of Health \(NDDoH\)](#).

Students

Student Initial Notification Process

- **Self-disclosure:** Students are expected to notify MSU through the [MSU COVID-19 Reporting Form](#) if they suspect that they have COVID-19, [exhibit symptoms](#), have been notified they are a 'close contact¹' or have tested positive.
- **3rd party report:** MSU recognizes potential positive COVID-19 cases will be reported to various people/areas (e.g. RAs, Faculty members, Student Success Center, Campus Health Services). Employees who are notified that a student has COVID-19 are expected to report this through the [MSU COVID-19 Reporting Form](#). Please note:
 - Employees should **not** confirm/investigate – they are only expected to notify; follow-up will be conducted by Campus Health Services.
 - Students and/or employees that were exposed/in close contact **will be notified** by NDDoH (or the positive individual under the direction of the NDDoH) or other applicable state health department/agency.
 - This information must be kept confidential; **do not** take it upon yourself to notify others.

Student General Guidelines for Quarantine or Isolation

Students seeking proactive testing: Students who proactively seek testing for COVID-19 but were **not required** to test due to having symptoms, are not required to quarantine while waiting for test results.

- Students who **test positive** will move to an isolation space. Amanda Jordan, Campus Health and the Student Life Director, Jeffrey Powell will assist with alternative living spaces for isolation.
 - Roommate(s) or suitemate(s) would continue to **quarantine** for a varied length of time depending on the situation – including individuals' vaccination status and testing outcomes.

Students experiencing symptoms: Students seeking testing due to being symptomatic and are awaiting COVID-19 test results will need to remain in quarantine until test results are known.

- **Testing:** If a student exhibits symptoms they will be assisted with getting a COVID-19 test.
 - Assistance will be provided with identifying a healthcare provider. Campus Health will connect the student(s) with the most appropriate healthcare provider.
 - Campus Health will follow up with the student frequently to monitor the health and wellness of the student.
- **Quarantine:** While waiting for the results of their tests, students and their suitemates/roommates **may** be in '[quarantine status](#)' depending on situation – including vaccination status and testing outcomes. Students will be expected to quarantine within their residential life space if they are in a suite-style or single residence hall room.
 - If the test result is negative, the student and roommate(s) or suitemate(s) no longer need to quarantine.
 - If the test result is positive:
 - The positive student will be moved to isolation.
 - Roommate(s) or suitemates(s) must fulfill quarantine depending on situation – including vaccination status and testing outcomes.

Students' exposure to positive case: Students who have been notified by a state health department (or were contacted by the positive individual under the direction of the NDDoH/state health department) that they were a 'close contact'¹ with another individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 will need to remain in quarantine for 5 days from the last date of exposure if not vaccinated.

- If you are unvaccinated, the CDC recommends quarantine for five days. You are recommended to wear a mask for 5 days after your quarantine period when you cannot maintain a safe social distance from others.
- If you are vaccinated and are more than six months out from your second mRNA dose, or more than two months after the J&J vaccine and not yet boosted, the CDC now recommends quarantine for five days followed five days of wearing a mask when you cannot maintain a safe social distance from others.
- Individuals who have received their booster shot, have had a prior infection in the last 90 days, or are within 6 months of their primary mRNA series or two months of J&J dose, do not need to quarantine following an exposure but are encouraged to wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure. *If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19.*

¹ According to [NDDoH](#): Close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a health care waiting area or room with someone that has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Close contact definition: A close contact is someone who was within six feet for a total of at least 15 minutes in a 24 hour period of someone who has COVID-19 (48 hours prior to their onset of symptoms; for asymptomatic cases, 48 hours prior to the date they were tested). Please note: If both parties were wearing masks, the positive individual is still required to isolate but the close-contact does not have to quarantine.

According to the [NDDoH](#), if the unvaccinated individual remains symptom free, they will be released from quarantine after day 5 and they are recommend to wear a mask when around any other individuals for 5 days.

- **Roommate(s) or suite mate(s)** of those individuals will not need to quarantine. All students living in that space will need to monitor themselves for symptoms and seek testing if they become symptomatic.
- **Testing:** If a student exhibits symptoms and/or has been in close contact¹ it is recommended they get a COVID-19 test.
 - If a student needs assistance identifying a healthcare provider, Campus Health will connect the student(s) with the healthcare provider.
 - Campus Health will follow up frequently to monitor the health and wellness of the student.
- **Quarantine:** While waiting for the results of their tests, students and their suitemates/roommates will be in '[quarantine status](#)'. Students will be expected to quarantine.
 - If a student's test comes back negative, [they need to fulfill the quarantine period as directed by the healthcare](#).
- If a student/employee is **not** contacted by the NDDoH (or the positive individual under the direction of the NDDoH) or other state health department/agency, they are **not** considered to be a 'close contact'¹ and should continue to attend classes/activities unless they develop symptoms.

Student Confirmed/Positive Case Process

When a [student has tested positive](#), they are expected to self-isolate. **Isolation space** will be coordinated through the Student Life Director and Campus Health. The student will be provided with specific instruction for isolation process. Campus Health, will follow up frequently to monitor the health and wellness of the student. If students do not live on campus, they will be provided with information on [how to care for themselves](#).

- Individuals with a positive COVID-19 test should isolate until 5 days have passed, if the person is asymptomatic, or if symptoms are improving and the individual has been fever free without medication for 24 hours at day five. This isolation period should be followed by five days of wearing a well-fitting mask while around others. It is not recommended you retest for COVID-19 within 90 days from your illness onset if you remain asymptomatic; test results during this time may remain residually positive. If you do become ill again, consult with your healthcare provider or campus health regarding your illness.

Student Secondary Notification Process

When a student is in quarantine or isolation, they will be provided with specific instructions from Campus Health via email. Following notification of a confirmed/positive case, Campus Health will conduct appropriate secondary notifications to the following areas:

- **Residential Life** - quarantine or isolation space identification (outlined in Residential Life Reentry Plan)
- **Dining Services** - provide contactless meal delivery for all students in the quarantine or isolation space
- **Student Success** - to confirm a student is in quarantine/isolation status
- **MSU Safety and Payroll Director** - to notify location and academic program for trending purposes
- **Facilities Management** – to notify of location of positive/suspected case to discontinue cleaning/entry into the impacted residential space

Student Academic/Work Notification Process

When a student is in quarantine or isolation, they will be provided with specific instructions via email from Campus Health, including instructions to notify the Student Success Director, Katie Richards, of their status and follow up with their faculty members (as they are able). Katie Richards will send a notification to the student's faculty members once notified by Campus Health. The notification will not include any personal health information and the dates are subject to change. The student is expected to keep up with all schoolwork. If the student is unable to keep up with their tasks, they are responsible for contacting Katie Richards.

Employees

Employee Initial Notification Process

- **Self-disclosure:** Employees are expected to notify MSU through the [MSU COVID-19 Reporting Form](#) if they suspect that they have COVID-19, [exhibit symptoms](#), have been notified they are a 'close contact¹' or have tested positive.
- **3rd party report:** MSU recognizes potential positive COVID-19 cases will be reported to various people/areas. If you have concerns about a MSU employee being ill, please use the [MSU COVID-19 Reporting Form](#). Please note:
 - Employees should **not** confirm/investigate – they are only expected to notify; follow-up will be conducted by Campus Health Services.
 - Employees that were exposed/in close contact **will be notified** by NDDoH (or the positive individual under the direction of the NDDoH) or other applicable state health department/agency.
 - This information must be kept confidential; **do not** take it upon yourself to notify others.

Employee Seeking Proactive Testing

Employees who proactively seek testing for Covid-19 but were not required to test due to having symptoms, are not required to quarantine while waiting for test results. Employees who test positive will follow the **Employee Confirmed/Positive Case Process**.

Employee Symptomatic/Exposure to Positive Case

Employees will be required to contact their supervisor and submit an “[MSU COVID-19 Reporting Form](#)” if they suspect that they have COVID-19, [exhibit symptoms](#), have been notified they are a 'close contact' by the NDDoH (or the positive individual under the direction of the NDDoH) or other state health department/agency, or have tested positive. Please note, the household contacts quarantine date starts when the positive individual's isolation ends.

- If you are unvaccinated, the CDC recommends quarantine for five days. You are recommended to wear a mask for 5 days after your quarantine period when you cannot maintain a safe social distance from others.
- If you are vaccinated and are more than six months out from your second mRNA dose, or more than two months after the J&J vaccine and not yet boosted, the CDC now recommends quarantine for five days followed five days of wearing a mask when you cannot maintain a safe social distance from others.
- Individuals who have received their booster shot, have had a prior infection in the last 90 days, or are within 6 months of their primary mRNA series or two months of J&J dose, do not need to quarantine following an exposure but are encouraged to wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure. *If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19.*

Employee Confirmed/Positive Case Process

When an employee has tested positive, they are expected to self-isolate. Do **NOT** report to work. Contact your direct supervisor and complete an [MSU Covid-19 Reporting Form](#). The NDDoH will contact you with a timeline of isolation.

- Individuals with a positive COVID-19 test should isolate until 5 days have passed, if the person is asymptomatic, or if symptoms are improving and the individual has been fever free without medication for 24 hours at day five. It is recommended that your isolation period should be followed by five days of wearing a well-fitting mask while around others. It is not recommended you retest for COVID-19 within 90 days from your illness onset if you remain asymptomatic; test

results during this time may remain residually positive. If you do become ill again, consult with your healthcare provider regarding your illness.

Employee is a Secondary Contact

If someone you live with was contacted by the Department of Health and was identified as a close contact, you would continue to report to work.

Household Member of an Employee is experiencing symptoms consistent with Covid-19

You do not need to quarantine at this time. Please monitor yourself for symptoms.

- If the household member tests positive for Covid-19, follow the “Employee has been notified as being a close contact” guidance above.